

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 /098 W

----- 115050

R 171110Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1145

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0462

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, SU

SUBJECT: CHEVRON EXPLORATION PROGRAM

REF: KHARTOUM 0240

1. CHEVRON OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMED THE EMBASSY IN CONFIDENCE THAT DRILLING OF FIRST EXPLORATORY WELL IN RED SEA WAS TERMINATED IN LATE JANUARY AT DEPTH OF ABOUT 9,000 FEET. NO OIL WAS STRUCK, ALTHOUGH SOME SHOWS OF GAS WERE DETECTED. IN VIEW OF SUBSTANTIAL EXPECTATIONS AROUSED BY GOS STATEMENTS PAST FEW MONTHS, CHEVRON OVERSEAS PRESIDENT SWEDE NELSON PAID VISIT TO SUDAN IN EARLY FEBURARY TO BREAK NEWS OF THE FAILURE. NO LOCAL PUBLICITY HAS ENSUED, AND, IN FACT, EMBASSY CONTINUALLY HEARS EXPRESSIONS OF HIGH HOPES FROM SUDANESE OFFICIALS ABOUT AN IMMINENT DISCOVERY OF COMMERCIALLY EXPLOITABLE DEPOSITS.

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2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT, FOR AREA BEING DRILLED

(ORIGINALLY A BALL AND COLLINS CONCESSION), CHEVRON IS OBLIGATED TO DRILL JUST ONE MORE WELL. AFTER THAT RED SEA DRILLING IS LIKELY TO BE EXTENDED TO A FARMED-IN-AREA (ORIGINALLY AWARDED TO AMERICAN PACIFIC) AND TO CHEVRON'S OWN CONCESSION. OEUNWHILE, INLAND, SEISMIC SURVEYS ARE JUST GETTING UNDERWAY WITH DRILLING NOT EXPECTED TO BEGIN UNTIL LATE 1976.

3. CHEVRON OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO BE CAUTIOUS AND TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT THEIR PROGRAM. THEY SAY ONLY THAT IT IS ON SCHEDULE, THAT GOS HAS BEEN HIGHLY COOPERATIVE AND THAT DISTRIBUTION OF PERIODIC PROGRESS REPORTS HAS BEEN RESTRICTED TO COMPETENT MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AUTHORITIES. IF THEY ARE DISAPPOINTED, THEY HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB OF COVERING UP. BREWER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition History: n/a
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Type: TE
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